

Schools: All Redmond students return to 5 full days a week this month

Continued from P1

In both school districts, younger students — grades K-3 in Bend-La Pine and all elementary students in Redmond — have attended school full time for more than a month after schools began to reopen earlier this year.

In Bend-La Pine, students in grades 4-12 have attended in-person school twice a week, with the other three days learning entirely online.

Fourth and fifth graders returned to in-person school on Monday. All elementary students had Thursday and Friday off last week, so staff could prep classrooms and move equipment to be prepared for their return.

“Having that extra time today and tomorrow to (make the transition) is really helpful,” Juniper Elementary principal Dan Wolnick said Thursday. “It’s almost like opening up in the fall.”

Secondary students in Bend-La Pine will start five-day-a-week school again April 12. Middle and high schoolers will have no school Wednesday so staffers can prep their classrooms that day.

In Redmond, middle school students are on the same schedule as older Bend-La Pine students: two full days a week. High schoolers attend class four days a week — but only for three hours a day, with one group in the morning and another in the afternoon.

All Redmond secondary students will return to full-time class April 19.

Price, the fourth grade teacher at Juniper Elementary, said she’s thrilled to have all her



Jackson Hogan/Bulletin photos

Redmond High School sophomores George Newell, Tate Waldbillig and Dante Leonard (from left to right) had varied opinions on returning to a full five-day-a-week school schedule on April 19. “I’m kind of excited for full time, because there’s actual (social) interaction,” Dante said. But: “It’s just going to be us sitting next to each other,” Tate said. “I don’t think it’s going to go that great.”

students in front of her at once. But she worries some of them might not have the stamina to focus on school for five full days a week, since they haven’t had to do so since March 2020.

“I think the kids, some of them, have slipped into some patterns of school being somewhat optional on their home days,” Price said. “We just have to trigger those memories about how to be at school.”

Another major hurdle for returning to full-time school is lunch. Although distancing in classrooms can shrink to 3 feet — which is what allows for the end of hybrid school — the state dictates that students must be 6 feet apart during lunch, because they take off

their face masks.

That means some students, many of whom have eaten in their 6-feet-apart classroom desks during hybrid school, will have to move to different spaces after desks are moved closer together.

Redmond school leaders plan to put some students back in the cafeteria for lunch — which could be tricky, as some schools have used the cafeteria for storage space. For example, Elton Gregory Middle School’s cafeteria tables are covered with football equipment, according to district spokesperson Sheila Miller. At Juniper Elementary in Bend — which consists of multiple separate buildings — teachers are encouraged to

use the many outdoor spaces around the school grounds for lunch to spread out, said Wolnick. There are also spare, vacant classrooms students can be moved into to safely eat, he said.

“We just have to be creative in how we’re doing (lunch),” Wolnick said.

Students in Bend and Redmond had mixed reactions to returning full time to school.

Katrina Settles and Steven Lazo — a junior and senior at Redmond High School, respectively — both said their morning half-days made it easier to work their part-time jobs.

“Going to school full time, I’d have to work really late,” said Katrina, 16. “I’m kind of dreading it.”



Redmond High School sophomores Riley Trussell (left) and Gavin Amos (right) said they were excited to return to a full five days of school per week on April 19. Riley: “I think school’s going to be probably better with the full days.” Gavin: “I enjoy the free time after school and only having (school) a couple hours each day. But it’s just not practical or easy to keep up with everything.”

Other Redmond High School students, like sophomore Dante Leonard, said full days would make it easier for them to focus on school.

“When you’re just at home, you don’t have that motivation to do your work,” said Dante, 15. “That’s why so many kids are failing their classes.”

Fellow Redmond sophomore Gavin Amos agreed.

“I enjoy the free time after school and only having (school) a couple hours each day,” said Gavin, 15. “But it’s just not practical or easy to keep up with everything.”

Redmond sophomore Tate Waldbillig said he was concerned 3 feet of distance between students wasn’t effective social distancing.

“It’s just going to be us sitting next to each other,” said Tate, 16. “I don’t think it’s going to

go that great.”

Olyvia King, a seventh grader at Pilot Butte Middle School in Bend, was worried about COVID-19 spreading with more time in school. Olyvia also wasn’t looking forward to mingling with fellow students all week.

“I don’t really mind hybrid (school), just because it gives me more time to not interact with people because I don’t like social interaction that much,” said Olyvia, 13.

Jesse Chase, a sixth grader at Pilot Butte, said he was nervous that more days of in-person school would mean a larger workload.

“It’s already stressful with two days a week ... (five) days is going to be even more stressful with more work,” said Jesse, 12. “It’s going to be harder to sleep.”

Reporter: 541-617-7854, jhogan@bendbulletin.com

Calendar

Continued from P1

Scalehouse Voices — Daniela Repas: The Portland-based visual artist will discuss process, strategy and storytelling as modular units of her work; 6-7 p.m.; registration required; Bend; go.evvnt.com/760509-1

Author Event — Michelle Nijhuis: The author will discuss their book “Beloved Beasts,” a vibrant history of the modern conservation movement — told through the lives and ideas of the people who built it; 6-7 p.m.; online; go.evvnt.com/744159-0 or 541-306-6564.

FRIDAY 4/9

Wings Out Virtual 5K Training Group: Train to run a 5K over eight weeks, and learn behavior change hacks to help your new healthy habit stick. You’ll get the plan, support and fun you need to get back to feeling great in your body; 8-10 a.m.; online; go.evvnt.com/753480-0 or 503-481-0595.

Virtual Coffee Clatter with Coffee & Chaos Mom: The Redmond Chamber of Commerce will hold a virtual discussion with the local boutique; 8:30-9:30 a.m.; online; go.evvnt.com/761973-0 or 541-923-5191.

Nonfiction Book Club: Discussing “A Life on Our Planet: My Witness Statement and a Vision for the Future” by David Attenborough; 1-2 p.m.; online; go.evvnt.com/753619-0 or 541-306-6564.

Joel Chadd: The folk artist will perform with Darin gentry and Kerry Sheehan in an intimate performance live-streamed from The Commons; 7:30-8:30 p.m.; online; go.evvnt.com/762118-0

SATURDAY 4/10

Salmon Run 2021: The half marathon, 10K and 5K race will be run through trails around the high desert resort; 8 a.m.-1 p.m.; Pronghorn Resort, 65600 Pronghorn Club Drive, Bend; go.evvnt.com/762118-0

com/762134-0

Redmond Food Project Collection Day: Food donors must have their green bags ready for collection by 9 a.m.; throughout Redmond; go.evvnt.com/762138-0 or 541-410-4750.

Spring Gardening Seminar — Native Plant Landscaping: The seminar hosted by OSU Extension Service and presented by the Central Oregon Master Gardener Association will cover information on using native plants in landscaping; 10-11 a.m.; \$5; online; go.evvnt.com/758724-1 or 541-548-6088.

The HWY 97 Band: The classic rock band will perform; 2-5:30 p.m.; Pump House Bar & Grill, 8320 U.S. Highway 97, Terrebonne; go.evvnt.com/755281-0

Countryfied Live with Shannon Bex: The local country band will perform on the outdoor stage. Advance tickets required; 6:30-9:30 p.m.; \$15; General Duffy’s Waterhole, 404 SW Forest Ave., Redmond; eventbrite.com

SUNDAY 4/11

Writers Writing — Poetry Playshop, “I Remember”: Oh, the places you’ll go in this Poetry Playshop with the phrase, “I Remember.” This deceptively simple prompt loosens memory and propels spontaneity; 9:30-11:30 a.m.; registration required; online; go.evvnt.com/756790-1 or 541-312-1063.

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The HWY 97: The classic rock band will perform on the outdoor stage; 3-6 p.m.; General Duffy’s Waterhole, 404 SW Forest Ave., Redmond; go.evvnt.com/755275-0

Redmond High School Jazz Band: Join Ben Lawson, the director of Redmond High School’s jazz band, for music, memories and the meaning of being a part of a jazz band; 4-5 p.m.; online; go.evvnt.com/762000-0 or 541-312-1032.

Central Oregon commemorates the Shoah and celebrates Israel: Commemorate the Shoah (Holocaust), the recalling of heroism and grief during Israel’s wars (Yom HaZikaron), and culminate with celebrating the joy over the miracle of Jewish independence in the land of Israel. Short documentaries, music, and prose readings will comprise the bulk of the event; 4-5:30 p.m.; online; go.evvnt.com/759621-0 or 541-668-6887.

MONDAY 4/12

Redmond Downtown Urban Renewal Advisory Committee Meeting: A regular meeting will be held; 5-7 p.m.; online; go.evvnt.com/761964-0 or 541-923-7761.

Talking to Children About Racism and Discrimination: Listen to a local expert to learn tips and techniques for discussing racism, discrimination and bullying with the children in your life; 6-7 p.m.; online; go.evvnt.com/762004-0

or 541-330-3764.

Not Your Average Book Club: The multi-generational club will be discussing “The Other Americans” by Laila Lalami; 6-7 p.m.; online; go.evvnt.com/753624-0 or 541-306-6564.

TUESDAY 4/13

Redmond Area Park and Recreation Board Meeting: The board will discuss changing the district name, approval of

Smith Rock Bicycle Park lease agreement, remote working and more; 7:30-8:30 a.m.; online; raprd.org or 541-548-7275.

Writers Working — Chicken and Eggs with Ellen Waterston: High desert author and poet Ellen Waterston discusses how blurring the lines between genres can allow writers more creativity and freedom with their writing; 5:30-7:30 p.m.; online; go.evvnt.com/762021-0 or 541-312-1063.

Virtual City Council Meeting: A regular

meeting will be held; 6-8 p.m.; online; go.evvnt.com/761966-0 or 541-923-7710.

Tuesday Night Trivia: A weekly trivia night will be held. Masks and social distancing required, free to play, winners can receive gift cards; 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Initiative Brewing, 424 NW Fifth St., Redmond; go.evvnt.com/761053-0 or 541-527-4380.

Read and recycle



Partners In Care

Community Education— A Virtual Presentation

An Intro to Equity and Inclusion in a Diverse Healthcare Setting

In this one-hour session, participants will explore the various ways our identities – from race to gender to immigration status – shape how we interact with our community. *Presented by Kerani Mitchell, co-founder Allyship in Action, and Jamie Bowman, co-founder Central Oregon Transgender Health Coalition.*

April 16
Friday
noon-1pm

Open to the community at no cost!

RSVP at communityevents@partnersbend.org and a Zoom registration will be emailed to you.

Limited registration in order to promote group interaction.

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